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Sustainable development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 7 June 2017 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to submit to you a joint press statement, dated 2 June 2017, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica, Manuel A. González Sanz (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19 and 37.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Juan Carlos **Mendoza-García**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2017 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint press statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica, Manuel A. González Sanz

Within the framework of the official visit to the Republic of Costa Rica on 1 and 2 June 2017, Mr. Mammadyarov had an audience with the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís.

Mr. Mammadyarov conveyed greetings and best wishes from the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, to President Solís. In turn, President Solís asked Mr. Mammadyarov to deliver his most sincere wishes to President Aliyev.

During the visit, the two Ministers for Foreign Affairs had a meeting in an extended format and conducted political consultations in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a Mechanism of Political Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica, signed in New York on 16 September 2002.

During the political consultations, the Ministers reviewed the current status of bilateral relations and, noting the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Costa Rica, expressed their satisfaction with the positive development of political dialogue and mutual understanding over the past two decades.

The Ministers noted the importance of mutual visits to foster the ties of friendship and cooperation between Azerbaijan and Costa Rica and, in this regard, recalled the official visit of Manuel A. González Sanz to the Republic of Azerbaijan on 20 October 2015.

Mr. Mammadyarov welcomed the decision of Costa Rica to establish an embassy in Baku. The Ministers recognized that establishing diplomatic missions in both countries will surely bring an additional boost to the strengthening of mutual cooperation.

The Ministers reiterated their mutual respect and support for each other's territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of internationally recognized borders. They also emphasized the inadmissibility of attempts to change the internationally recognized borders of States by use of force.

Mr. Manuel A. González Sanz stated that Costa Rica firmly supported the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict based on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

The Ministers emphasized the wide range of opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic trade, tourism, energy, logistics, ports and maritime, investment and humanitarian spheres. Cooperation between diplomatic academies and exchanges of students and scholars in various disciplines were particularly highlighted.

The sides mentioned that the current trade turnover did not reflect the potential of the two countries. In order to boost trade relations, the Ministers agreed to encourage direct contact between the business communities of the two countries. Furthermore, they touched upon the role of public diplomacy and cultural events to raise wider public awareness about Azerbaijan and Costa Rica in their respective societies. The conviction was shared that such efforts will also contribute to stimulating the flow of tourists.

They also noted the effective role of parliamentary diplomacy in advancing bilateral cooperation and to this end agreed to initiate an exchange of parliamentary delegations.

The sides also discussed issues on the international agenda and welcomed the commonality of vision of Azerbaijan and Costa Rica towards global issues and the commitment of both countries to strengthening a rules-based international order to maintain regional and global peace and security in accordance with the norms and principles of international law.

Recalling also their meetings on the sidelines of major international events, the Ministers commended the cooperation and consistent practice of mutual support within international organizations.

The Ministers signed an agreement on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, service and official passports. They also agreed to continue their efforts towards further strengthening the legal base between the two countries, particularly in the economic and humanitarian spheres.

The Ministers agreed that the next round of political consultations would be held in Baku.